

Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Progress Report

Reporting Period: September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026

Introduction

This report provides an overview of activities undertaken to support sexual violence prevention, response, awareness, and policy development at NVIT during the reporting period of September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026.

Throughout the year, NVIT remained committed to fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment through policy enhancement, awareness initiatives, campus safety improvements, student engagement, and ongoing framework development.

Leadership and Governance

During the reporting period, the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response portfolio maintained momentum in engagement and participation to policy implementation, awareness initiatives and strategic planning.

The portfolio actively participated in:

- Legislative review and discussion meetings
- Planning and development activities supporting an updated Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework.
- Ongoing review of institutional practices to ensure alignment with emerging best practices and legislative requirements.

These efforts supported continuity, accountability, and continuous improvement within the institutional response framework.

Policy Accessibility and Student Awareness

To improve student access to information and support resources:

- Hard copies of the Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy were distributed and made available at key locations throughout campus to ensure students could easily access information regarding their rights, reporting options, and available supports.
- A Sexual Violence Policy feedback form on NVIT's website is being monitored to support future framework enhancements, improve accessibility, strengthen safety features, and identify barriers that may exist within current reporting and support processes. Responses submitted through the form are directed to a confidential

email account accessible only to a limited group of designated individuals responsible for implementing the Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy and coordinating an appropriate institutional response.

Student Perceptions of Sexualized Violence Survey Review

During the reporting period, NVIT reviewed the findings from the **Student Perceptions of Sexualized Violence Survey** as part of its commitment to fostering a safer and more supportive campus environment.

The survey provided valuable insight into student awareness, perceptions of safety, experiences accessing support services, and barriers that may impact reporting or support-seeking behaviours.

Campus Safety Enhancements

Recognizing that physical environments contribute to overall campus safety and well-being, NVIT undertook several environmental safety improvements during the reporting period.

Lighting Improvements

Campus lighting enhancements were completed in several key locations, including:

- The exterior of the Merritt Campus building.
- The main campus parking lot.
- Areas surrounding the student residence.
- The pedestrian pathway connecting the main campus and the Centre of Excellence in Sustainability (COES) building.

Measurable Outcomes

As a result of these improvements:

- Enhanced lighting coverage was established in **three high-traffic campus locations**.
- Visibility was increased along primary pedestrian routes used by students, employees, and visitors.
- Safer travel pathways were created between academic, residential, and parking areas during evening and early morning hours.

- Lighting enhancements supported Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles by improving visibility, sightlines, and overall perceptions of safety in priority campus areas.

These improvements contribute to a safer and more welcoming campus environment.

Policy and Framework Development

As an extension of the updated Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy, NVIT continues to work toward the development of an enhanced Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework. This work is informed by legislative requirements, sector-based discussions, institutional review, and engagement with relevant committees and external partners, including the Ending Violence Association of BC.

Current review activities include:

- Evaluating the accessibility of policy information and reporting processes.
- Identifying opportunities to strengthen safety features and prevention measures.
- Addressing barriers that may impede access to supports and services.
- Reviewing feedback received through the policy feedback mechanism.
- Incorporating survey findings and stakeholder input into future policy and procedural updates.

This work will guide the next phase of policy implementation and continuous improvement.

Key Accomplishments

During the 2025–2026 reporting period, NVIT:

- Participated in legislative discussions, sector conversations, and framework planning activities.
- Supported and promoted the "Don't Be a Bystander" campaign to increase awareness and encourage community accountability set to launch Oct 1st, 2026
- Increased accessibility of the Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy through campus-wide distribution of hard-copy resources and online access.
- Ongoing monitoring of the online feedback mechanism to support continuous policy and service improvement.

- Reviewed findings from the Student Perceptions of Sexualized Violence Survey to identify strengths, opportunities, and priorities for future action.
 - Completed lighting upgrades in the parking lot, student residence area, and pathway between the main campus and COES building, improving visibility across three key campus locations and enhancing safety along primary pedestrian routes.
 - Continued development of an updated Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework informed by stakeholder feedback, accessibility considerations, survey findings, and emerging best practices.
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Looking Ahead

Priorities for the upcoming reporting period include:

- Completion and implementation of the updated Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework based on Legislative changes.
 - Analysis of feedback received through the policy feedback process.
 - Enhancement of safety features and environmental safety measures across campus.
 - Expansion of ongoing awareness, prevention, and educational programming.
 - Continued efforts to reduce barriers to reporting and support services.
 - Increased student engagement in policy review and framework development activities.
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Conclusion

NVIT remains committed to creating and maintaining a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for all students, employees, and visitors. Through awareness initiatives, policy accessibility improvements, student feedback mechanisms, campus safety enhancements, survey-informed planning, and ongoing framework development, the institution continues to strengthen its capacity to prevent and respond to sexual violence while fostering a culture of dignity, accountability, safety, and respect across the campus community.